



The Hour

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"keeps up with Hitler to the minute"

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GESTAPO GUARDS 310 GERMAN SEAMEN IN NEW YORK AND BALTIMORE

Held in Three Hotels -- Thomsen of Nazi Embassy in Washington Addresses Them With Pep Talk -- Seamen's Committee Counters Nazi Propaganda

For the last month, ever since the outbreak of the European war 240 German sailors have lived in two hotels in New York City, and 70 more in a Baltimore, Md., hotel. The New York hotels are the Rex and the Flanders, both in West 47th Street. Gestapo agents are in secret charge of the men, The Hour learns.

The sailors have been discharged by the Standard Oil Company which employed them on seven of its tankers. The men may stay here no longer than sixty days, and the Company is under obligation to pay their maintenance until they reach their port of origin, which is Hamburg. Every morning each sailor gets his \$2.65, and because of the expense the Company has tried to ship the crews back to Germany but so far with no success. The Roma of the Italian Line would not take them, while the Rex of the same line cancelled the booking of 24 of these German seamen just before sailing. The Italians plainly fear trouble with the British on the high seas if they take Germans to Europe. Nevertheless, three seamen, who felt it was their duty to return, managed to sneak in aboard the Roma and sailed away.

Serious pressure upon the German seamen to go back to the Reich is put by the Nazis in America. The Nazis' motive is of course to provide Hitler's navy with additional cannon fodder. However, despite the efforts of the Standard Oil Company and of the Nazi Ortsgruppenleiter (district leader), few sailors have shown willingness to leave. Of New York's 240 men only 25 have said that they would go.

Nazi Methods of Surveillance and Propaganda

Because of this "lack of cooperation," the guard over the seamen has been intensified, although it is made as inconspicuous to outsiders as possible. Whoever of the German sailors reads a non-Nazi newspaper, whoever goes to see places "where his mind might be poisoned,"

whoever stays away from his hotel too long at a time, is disciplined by his ship's Nazi leader. His name is at once relayed to the Gestapo office in Hamburg which keeps a constant eye on the man's family remaining in the Reich and threatens revenge for the seaman's conduct in America.

Another way of influencing the sailors was thought up by the Nazis in this country when the Reichsdeutsche Vereinigung invited its members as well as German-Americans to attend a "Volksfest" for the benefit of the stranded Germans. The festival took place recently, at the Schuetzenpark in North Bergen, N. J., in an atmosphere of semi-secrecy. The sailors held in New York received free tickets and were urged to come, for the meeting was to be addressed by Dr. Hans Thomsen, Nazi chargé d'affaires in Washington. Only some 70 sailors came, and these mainly because they were bored by their secluded life in the hotels while all sorts of amusements were promised at North Bergen.

What Went On at the Meeting

The Hour's representative, who attended the meeting, reports that at the park about 2000 Germans gathered under large Nazi banners coupled with the U. S. flag. The stage was decorated with signs proclaiming, "Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Fuehrer!" A fervent poem was staged, and the chief actor as if under an oath promised to fight for "sacred Germany," since it was to her, he said, that his soul and body belonged. This was followed by Dr. Thomsen's long speech, disclaiming responsibility for the war and whitewashing the Fuehrer. Dr. Thomsen also urged his listeners to be concerned mainly with Germany, putting all other things and countries (including the United States) into the background.

The Horst Wessel song and "Deutschland Ueber Alles" were sung, and the Nazi salute with an upraised arm and "Heil Hitler" were given. Long counters were heaped high with Nazi literature for sale. The proceeds of the "Volksfest," some \$1000, were supposed to benefit the stranded Germans, but instead the Reichsdeutsche Vereinigung got the money.

Counteracting the Nazis

The Nazi work among the German sailors in this country is busily and successfully counteracted by the American Committee for Anti-Nazi German Seamen. Leaflets are being distributed in the hotels, on the streets near by, and at the nearest public places frequented by the sailors. Contact men and women are being sent into the hotels. Leaflets are accepted by the sailors and read eagerly, and afterwards many are passed to those men who for some or other reason had not been reached. Discussions are arranged with the help of American girls who have succeeded in striking up acquaintance with many of the sailors. The sailors, after their confidence is gained, praise the courage and determination with which the Nazi Bund is being fought here, and manifest their own anti-Nazi feelings.

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ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE CASE OF KOISCHWITZ

Nazi Propagandist of Hunter College is Now in Europe

We learn that Assistant Professor Otto Koischwitz, the Nazi propagandist who teaches German in Hunter College of New York City (see The Hour for August 30), was in Germany when the war broke out, but at present is in one of the Scandinavian countries, waiting for his family to rejoin him. The family are still in Germany.

Koischwitz is on a six-month leave of absence from Hunter College and is due back in New York sometime in February, 1940. When and if he returns, the proper authorities will take action with regard to his Nazi propagandistic activities, photostatic evidence of which has been collected by The Hour and is kept ready for such action.

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HUNGER IN NAZI REICH REVEALED IN INGENIOUS MESSAGE

Our South Bend, Ind., correspondent informs us of a letter, received by a citizen of that town from Germany, and conveying a cleverly concealed message that people in the Nazi Reich are suffering from a great hunger. The text of the German letter contained no phrase or word that could have enraged the Nazi censors, but a postscript advised the recipient to save the stamp on the letter, "for it may be of great value in the future." The recipient at once steamed the stamp off the letter and, on the reverse side of the stamp, found the message about the hunger written in miniature letters.

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CEMETERY IRON FOR HITLER'S GUNS

In their desperate effort to use every bit of domestic iron for munitions, the Nazis are now rummaging through Germany's cemeteries. Our Berlin informant sends word that his wife recently received a letter from the management of one of the largest Berlin cemeteries, asking her consent to remove iron fixtures -- fences, doors and chains -- from her mother's tomb, and adding that should the consent be withheld these parts would be removed anyway.

Garden fences in Berlin's suburbs are also among the loot of the iron-gathering officials. Nevertheless, at Wannsee, near Berlin, the beautiful estate of Dr. Robert Ley, head of the Nazi Labor Front, still retains its many hundred yards of iron picket-fence. In fact, Dr. Ley's fence has been recently repaired and put into the best possible shape.

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GENERAL ALMAZAN AND THE NAZIS: DOCUMENTARY PROOF

We have in our files proof that General Almazan of Mexico has been in touch with Hitler's agents, his disclaimers to the contrary (see The Hour for September 9 and 23). Most interesting is a photostat of a letter written in Spanish two years ago by Colonel Ernesto von Merck, a former German artillery officer, now a business man in Mexico and an ardent Nazi. The letter was addressed to General Saturnino Cedillo, the Fascist leader who later, in May 1938, led an unsuccessful revolt against the Mexican government and was killed on January 11, 1939. At one time von Merck served as Cedillo's adviser and chief of police in San Luis Potosi.

In von Merck's letter, among other matters, "greetings and deepest affection" of the German Minister in Mexico were relayed to Cedillo, and the latter was asked to send a special letter "by a safe route" to General Yucopicio. In that message General Yucopicio was to be asked by General Cedillo to safeguard German properties in the Yaqui valley in Sonora. The message was to be sent by a certain Senor Vaca. At this point von Merck's letter recommended Vaca and his friend Ramon Jimenez as "trustworthy and devoted" assistants of the Nazi cause in Mexico. Both of them were sent by von Merck to see Cedillo.

The letter speaks for itself, especially when we add what is common knowledge in Mexico: that the late General Cedillo as well as General Yucopicio, Senor Vaca and Ramon Jimenez were, and those of them who are alive still are, close friends and political associates of General Almazan.

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S. S. HAMBURG'S FRENCH CAMOUFLAGE

A traveler reports to us that he was on the Hamburg, of the Hamburg-American Line, when the ship sailed from New York for Germany on August 24. Rumors of the impending war grew with each day and hour. On the 27th, while at sea, the ship was hastily repainted. With materials, which had been stocked apparently with just such emergency in mind, the Hamburg's funnels were reshaped to look like French funnels, and a French flag was raised by the Nazis. The camouflage was discarded when German shores were at last sighted.

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NAZI BOILERS IN JAPAN WOULD NOT BOIL

A friend of The Hour returning from Tokyo reports the presence in Japan of a number of American engineers and mechanics who have been hired by the Japanese to repair or replace much of the German machinery bought in the recent years. The Japanese, it seems, found that Nazi boilers would not boil and hoisting machines would not hoist. Inferior quality of the metal used in the Nazi Reich factories working for export is blamed.

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SENATOR DAVIS MAIN SPEAKER AT NAZIS' RALLY IN PHILADELPHIA

James J. Davis, Republican, U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania, is listed by Nazi organizations in Philadelphia as their principal speaker at the "German Day" celebration to be held in the local Metropolitan Opera House on October 6. The Nazis of Philadelphia say that Davis has accepted the invitation, and advertise him prominently.

The invitation to Davis was extended in the name of the Deutscher-Amerikanischer Zentralbund, Philadelphia branch, by the Rev. Sigmund Von Bosse. Known as an active Nazi, Von Bosse was the main speaker at a rally of Kuhn's Bund in Madison Square Garden, New York, earlier this year. The Zentralbund is an old organization of Pennsylvania Germans, but the Nazis have succeeded in penetrating and capturing it. The Nazification became complete when on January 1, 1939, Von Bosse became the Zentralbund's president. The following Nazi groups are by now represented in the Zentralbund of Pennsylvania: the German-American Bund, the Deutsche Frontkaempferschaft, Deutsche Konsum Verband, Frankford Schulverein, Philadelphia Quartett Club, Kyffhauser Kamaradschaft, von Mackensen Drill Corps, and the Austrian-American Society of Philadelphia.

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CHRISTIAN MOBILIZERS IN CONTACT WITH KU KLUX KLAN

We hear that early in September the head of the fascist Christian Mobilizers, Joseph E. McWilliams, went to a conference of Ku Klux Klan held in Atlanta, Georgia, and was elected to the National Supreme Council of KKK. McWilliams is not a Catholic, but many of his close henchmen are. One of these, remembering the rabid anti-Catholic past of the Klan, is reported to have resigned from the Christian Mobilizers in protest and indignation at his chief's action.

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BOSTON'S ITALIAN FASCISTS ARE VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED

Two of Boston's four Italian periodicals have in recent months printed material echoing Mussolini's anti-Semitic campaign. One of these, La Gazettea del Massachusetts, a weekly edited by a Mr. Donnaruma, early in June published the notorious forgery of "Benjamin Franklin Letter." Although later Donnaruma declared its publication was a mistake, his paper has not published a refutation. The Italian News, an English-language weekly, has some months ago printed an article justifying Il Duce's anti-Semitic decrees. Its editor, Philip Santosuosso, apologized in a front-page editorial only after indignant protests by a number of prominent Bostonians. He blamed an editorial employee, Philip A. Dipesa, whose name was thereupon removed from the paper's masthead. The Italian News, however, continues its anti-Semitism by the use of such innuendoes as "Jew Cohen" in referring to an individual.

Vigorously fighting the Fascism and anti-Semitism of the above two papers, there are La Notizia, the only Italian daily published in New England, and Counter Current, a monthly in Italian and English.

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